(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Substantial part of Gir forest is notified as national park and sanctuary. Central Government provides financial assistance for management of the area on scientific lines and to control poaching of wild animals under the scheme "Development of national parks and sanctuaries".These efforts have improved the population status of.various species of wild animals including that of lion, the population of lions has increased from 304 lions in 1995 to 327 lions in May, 2001.

**Funds for maintenance of lakes and rivers**

1822. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provided funds for maintenance and beautification of various lakes and rivers including Majuli Island in Assam during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The State Government of Assam has not submitted any proposal for maintenance and beautification of any lake or river for consideration under the ongoing programmes of National Lake Conservation Plan or National River Conservation Plan. A preparatory grant of US $ 20,000 has been approved by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in October, 2001 for declaration of Majuli Islands as Cultural Landscape Site. Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, is preparing detailed dossier in this regard.

**Status of endangered species**

1823. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had directed the Zoological Survey of India during 1987 to conduct survey to find out the status of endangered species,